

Deacon John Bailey House
Portland, Maine
CUMBERLAND Co.

HABS No. ME-4

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District of Maine

Historic American Buildings Survey
Josiah T. Tubby, District Officer
537 Congress Street, Portland, Maine

"DEACON JOHN BAILEY HOUSE"

Portland, Cumberland County, Maine

Owner

Maine Savings Bank
Portland, Maine

Date of Erection

1730-1755

Builder

Deacon John Bailey

Present Condition

House said by Miss Helen Bailey (ref. Newspaper clipping 1904, Nathan Gould Scrapbook #3 Maine Historical Library) last surviving member of family to be originally built one story high. Second story believed added about 1807. Between 1800 and 1925, the house had gone through several changes, but all the partitions built during that time have been removed, as has also an ell which was built at the rear of the house. It is believed that the house now appears much as it was when the second story was completed. The existing evidence in the character of mouldings tends to confirm this statement. Most of the sash has been replaced. The kitchen hearth shows the original brick.

Number of Stories

Two and One Half

Materials of Construction

Cellar floor brick said to have been made on the place. Foundation fieldstone, granite and brick. There is no sheathing. The house is clapboarded with lap joints at ends. Hand made nails used in building. Interior walls plastered and panelled. Heavy timbers oak and pine.

Other Existing Records

Newspaper clipping "Old Bailey House" 1904 newspaper in Nathan Gould Scrapbook #3. Material for that newspaper account was given by last remaining descendant of builder. Clipping August 22, 1914 by Leonard B. Chapman, in "Bailey Family Scrapbook". All data noted here in custody of the Maine Historical Society Library, Portland, Maine

Additional Data

The house was originally surrounded by a stockade.

About 1825, the plastered walls of the front hall were decorated by an itinerant painter with scenes which are said to depict the location and appearance of the "Old Powder House" formerly located on the present site of the Union Station in Portland. The hand painted walls extend through the two stories in the hall.

About 1927, the house was purchased by Mr. Norman Smith who did much to restore the building to its original state. Mr. Smith used the house as an antique furniture shop. He removed the addition from rear of house, removed wall partitions in the kitchen, restoring the kitchen from the three rooms to one. He removed covering from kitchen fireplace and restored the jambs of fireplace. The wall paper in parlor and dining room was removed. In the kitchen the floor was restored with lumber from two old houses in Standish, Maine. Most of the old hardware in the house has been restored or replaced, except the lock on the front door which is said to be original. All sash and glass repaired or replaced by Mr. Smith.

All data given here which was not obtained from the Maine Historical Library records, was given to Carl R. Stearns, member of the survey field party, by Mr. Norman Smith, former owner of the house.

Eleanor E. Jannell

Approved:

Joseph T. Tracy

Date

June 29, 1936.

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